

INTRODUCTION OF JOHN SULLIVAN, NEW MEMBER FROM OKLAHOMA

(Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATKINS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, this may sound very unusual, but as a dean of the Oklahoma delegation but the newest member of the Republican Party, it gives me great privilege on behalf of our entire Oklahoma delegation, including our two Senators who have come over and joined us, and other members of our delegation to present to you the newest Member, of not only the Oklahoma delegation, but of the 107th Congress, an outstanding young man who, when he announced that he was going to run, the political pundits gave him very little chance because he was outfunded and more popular names were in the race.

JOHN SULLIVAN is a fourth-generation Oklahoman, and he is also the oldest of four children; and speaking of family, I would like to introduce you to his wife, Judy, a tremendous asset. Also, I think he has his three children here, Meredith and Sydney up there and Tommy right here to my left. Let us give him a big hand.

JOHN has had a successful career in two industries, transportation and also energy. So I imagine he will be asking for some very apropos type committee assignments. He was inspired to run for Representative to try to do something more to build a future, yes, for Oklahomans, yes, for the future of our children and grandchildren.

Some of the proudest moments of his accomplishments in the State House where he served and was Republican whip was the creation of Oklahoma State University at Tulsa and the largest income tax cut in the history of Oklahoma, parent notification law. Those are just a few of the accomplishments he did in his short tenure there.

So I ask my colleagues to join me today in welcoming the newest Member and I think one of the hardest-working young men I have met and one I think you will all be very proud of, JOHN SULLIVAN, first district of Oklahoma.

EXPRESSING THANKS

(Mr. SULLIVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I am so honored to be here today. I would like to thank the Members for their warm welcome they have extended to me.

I wish to take a moment to acknowledge my family, my wife, Judy; my son, Tommy; and daughters, Meredith and Sydney; my mother, Mag Sullivan; and mother- and father-in-law, Mary Ann and Tom Beck; also, my mentor, Mayor of Tulsa, Bob LaFortune, who is here, former Mayor of Tulsa; and Art Rubin, who is up there as well; and all of the wonderful friends and family

who have accompanied me from Oklahoma to show their support today.

I have a great neighborhood, too, one of the old-fashioned neighborhoods. I have got a lot of my neighbors that have come, and it is great. Our kids run and play together and go in each other's houses, and they came as well.

I am also pleased to be joined by Oklahoma's two extraordinary Senators, JIM INHOFE, who as a Member of this body ably represented the first district of Oklahoma; and DON NICKLES, the assistant Republican leader of the Senate.

I would also like to take a moment to thank former Congressman Steve Largent, who recently departed Congress to run for Governor of Oklahoma. I wish him the best in his new endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly humbled to become a Member of this honorable body. This day has been a lifelong dream of mine, and I pledge today to continue to fight for the constituents of the first district of Oklahoma, for Oklahoma values. I look forward to the great friendships that will be formed in these hallowed halls and to working together in advancing the prosperity and promise of this great Nation.

I would like to say a special thanks to my father who got me started in politics, and I know he is looking down on me and he is happy that his son got elected to the Congress.

CELEBRATING HADASSAH'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, in 1912 Henrietta Szold founded what is now the largest women's and the largest Jewish membership organization in the United States, Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America.

This year marks its 90th anniversary, celebrating continuous efforts of more than 400,000 Hadassah members in Florida alone.

Some of the outstanding women of Hadassah in my own south Florida congressional district are Alecia Sachs, the regional president; Mildred Riesenbergs, the 90th anniversary Chair; Phyllis Goldman, the major gifts fundraising coordinator; Mindy Tucker Olofson, membership coordinator; and Pam Brown, Woman of the Year Chair.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the spirit of volunteerism and community service that thousands of Hadassah members perform each and every day. Congratulations to each Hadassah member in the Nation.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK AMERICANS

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the accomplishments and contributions of black Americans to this Nation.

February is Black History Month. Established in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, Black History Month raises awareness of the history of black Americans in our schools and across our Nation.

As a child, Mr. Woodson had to earn money for his family, and so he was not able to start school until very late in life. His motto of "it is never too late to learn" is something that all of us can use every day in our learning and growing, especially when it comes to the history of this Nation.

February is also a significant month for the birthdays of great African Americans, pioneers in many ways to our Nation. These include the birthdays of Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Langston Hughes, Eubie Blake, the NAACP, and the first Pan African Congress.

During Black History Month, we should take the time to continue learning about the contributions, the struggles and the perseverance of African Americans here in our Nation. Our country would not be as culturally diverse without their contributions.

HONORING LUKE ROTH

(Mr. GANSKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, Luke Roth, born December 9, 1953, died of cancer yesterday. A proud graduate of Princeton, a devoted husband to Katie, a loving father to Luke, Anne, and Clare.

Luke was my district director for 6 years and then was President Bush's State campaign director. Luke loved politics. He even met Katie on the campaign trail.

He was a big man, he wore a size 13 EEE shoe, and I never met a man with a bigger heart. Luke believed passionately in American democracy. He was a student of history. He would think there is no higher tribute than if I simply said Luke Roth, servus publicus, civis: public servant, citizen.

All who knew this loving bear of a man are mourning his passing. Our grief is tempered only by our belief that if there was ever anyone who merited heaven, it is Luke.

Luke has left big shoes for us to fill. May he rest in peace.

GERMAN EMBASSY LETTER REGARDING ABDUCTED CHILDREN

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I will stray from the story of Ludwig Koons to respond to a letter from the German embassy that was published in the Washington Post.

I am delighted to hear the German government agrees that abducted children deserve swift and fair decisions